

ORGI Center for the Defense
 INFORMATION
 LA Rocque, Gene
 (orig under ORGI)
 76-7179/5
 Executive Registry

May 3, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT

: Meeting with Center for
 Defense Information, 11:00-
 12:30, 23 April 1976

Admiral
 La Rocque's
 group-

PARTICIPANTS

: Edward W. Proctor, DDI

STAT

Mr. Proctor opened the briefing by reiterating the ground rules, i.e., no notes, no recorders, no attribution, and no further dissemination of the information. He also said that there would be three instances in which he would not answer questions: if he did not know the answer; if the answer would involve classified materials or intelligence sources and methods; or if the subject matter concerned the U. S. defense budget. As requested by the visitors, Mr. Proctor then gave a short, prepared statement on the general nature of intelligence and the Agency's responsibilities for producing finished intelligence for national foreign policymakers.

Questions fell largely into three or four general categories: covert action; the kinds and worth of various types of information; intelligence failures; and oversight of the Agency.

Covert action was the subject of most discussion. Mr. Proctor defined covert action, indicated the procedures for initiating and approving covert action proposals, and stressed that such actions represented only a very small part of the Agency's activities. No specific covert actions nor specific countries were discussed. Discussion instead focused on philosophy and morality. Many in the group, particularly Mr. Stewart Mott, returned repeatedly to the morality of covert action. (Despite the lucidity of his arguments, Mr. Proctor probably did not succeed in converting Mr. Mott into a supporter of covert action.)

Mr. Proctor repeatedly stressed the selectivity used in assessing and approving covert action proposals. He noted that it was part of his responsibility as the DDI to review covert action proposals for feasibility, appropriateness, and long-term implications. He said that his review could cause proposals to be significantly altered or cancelled entirely. He said that the Agency never undertakes covert actions on its own authority. Proposals for covert action can come from several sources, for example,

from the National Security Council, the Department of State, the Ambassador in the country involved, or from the Agency itself. Mr. Proctor noted that the Agency does not play a role in determining U.S. policy or goals abroad. It implements covert action plans when such plans are approved and certified by the President. Mr. Proctor also said that six separate Congressional Committees are briefed on covert action plans that have been approved.

Mr. Proctor was asked whether he felt confident that the new Executive Order would keep the Agency from responding to illegal or inappropriate orders from the President. Mr. Proctor said he was certain this would be the case and that, indeed, sensitivity was now so high that he was positive that nothing remotely questionable or improper would be considered at all. The questioner also asked Mr. Proctor whether he felt the Executive Order would permit the Agency to continue to engage in "interference" i.e., covert action, abroad. Mr. Proctor said that was the case, and in response to a second question, he cited the relevant portion of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, and its legislative history. These make it clear that Congress intended the Agency to engage in covert action programs.

Several in the group were interested in the value of various kinds of sources. Several seemed to regard clandestinely acquired information as of little worth in relationship to the risk involved. Mr. Proctor explained that there are three general categories of information: that which is acquired overtly from open literature or normal diplomatic processes; that which is gathered by technical means; and that which is acquired clandestinely. He related this to the three kinds of societies that the United States deals with abroad: open societies where most information can be obtained overtly; closed societies where all types of collection must be used; and "Third World" countries where information often is not generally available nor generally reliable. Few of the latter countries are of significance to U.S. foreign policy interests. If they should be, then the most appropriate and safest means would be used to gather information.

Mr. Proctor said that clandestine collection is never used unless there is no other way to obtain the information and unless the information is judged to be sufficiently important to justify the risk inherent in clandestine operations. One member of the group said that he had heard that clandestine reports constituted no more than 15% of all information gathered and were mostly worthless. Mr. Proctor said that those figures

NOT TRUE!
WHY ABOUT
HAR'S TRIP?
INDIA?
CAMBODIA?
EGYPT?
SYRIA?
ETC.

were not valid because they would vary widely from country to country depending upon the type of society involved. He said that in open societies far less than 15% of the information received would be clandestinely collected whereas in closed societies it might be much higher.

AS FAR AS
INTELLECTUAL
IS CONCERNED,
CHARACTER OF ALL
IS CRITICAL

Mr. Proctor was asked about his views of the allegations in the Pike Committee report regarding intelligence failures. In response, he explained that the basic purpose of intelligence is to inform policymakers of the forces at work abroad that could affect American interests. In all cases cited as "failures" by the Pike Committee, the Agency had instead done very well in informing policymakers of the dangers inherent in the situations. He explained some of the background of the failure to predict the initiation of hostilities in the Yom Kippur War, stressing that the situation had been relatively static between April 1973 and October of that year. Analysts had stated that no additional forces were necessary and that war could begin at any time with no warning. He also said that had they wished to do so, analysts could have called "Wolf" virtually every day. He pointed out that another sort of analytical "failure" happens when the warnings of intelligence are taken seriously and action is taken to avert the situation -- thus the predicted event never happens.

Mr. Proctor was asked about oversight of the Agency and the Intelligence Community, specifically in regard to S.400 now pending in the Senate. Mr. Proctor did not comment on the specifics of that bill, but instead urged that oversight of the Intelligence Community be handled by a joint committee or one committee in each House with exclusive jurisdiction.

In response to another question, Mr. Proctor said that morale had remained remarkably high during the 18 months of intensive investigation, although many people had had their self-image and self-esteem damaged. He also said that the quantity and quality of applicants for employment had never been higher.

Attached is a list of the members of the Advisory Board and Senior Staff of the Center for Defense Information who attended the meeting.

Office of the
Assistant to the Director

STAT

cc: DCI
DDI

Doris Z. Bato - Cos Cob, Connecticut.

Arthur D. Berliss, Jr. - Captain, USNR (Ret.); former Vice President, Allen-Hollander Company, New York, N.Y.

James R. Compton - President, J. R. Compton Development Company; President's Council, Experiment in International Living, Los Gatos, California.

Randolph P. Compton - Macon, Mo.

Col. James Donovan - USMC (Ret.), Author; former publisher, Journal of the Armed Forces. Research Scientist, Head of Public Relations, Engineering Experiment Station, Georgia Institute of Technology. (Accompanied by wife, Kay).

Leslie Dunbar - Lewisburg, W.Va.

Charles H. Dyson - Chairman of the Board, Dyson-Kissner Corporation, New York, New York

Brigadier General Bertram K. Gorwitz - U. S. Army (Ret.), Deputy Director, Center for Defense Information

G. Sterling Grumman - G. S. Grumman and Associates, Inc., Members, New York Stock Exchange, Boston, Mass.

Harry Huge - Partner, Arnold and Porter; Chairman, Board of Trustees, United Mine Workers of America, Welfare & Retirement Fund, Washington, D. C.

David T. Johnson - Director of Research, Center for Defense Information.

Stefan H. Leader - Staff Associate, Center for Defense Information.

Stewart R. Mott - Philanthropist, New York, New York, (Accompanied by Cherry Barnes and Anne Zill).

?
6 Nicholas Nyary - Budapest, Hungary.

Lawrence S. Phillips - President, Phillips-Van Heusen Corporation, New York, New York.

Rear Admiral Gene R. La Rocque - U. S. Navy (Ret.), Director, Center for Defense Information.

Rudolph S. Rasin - President, The Rasin Corporation, Chicago, Ill.

Dr. Earl C. Ravenal - Former Director, Asian Division
(Systems Analysis), Office of Secretary of Defense.
Professor of American Foreign Policy, Johns Hopkins
School of Advance International Studies, Washington, DC
(Accompanied by wife, Carol M.).

John M. Rockwood - Publisher, Chicago, Ill. (Accompanied
by wife, Patricia Dean).

Robert P. Schauss - Metallurgical Engineer; International
Consultant for Industrial Development. River Forest, Ill.

Alfred P. Slaner - Chairman of the Executive Committee,
Kayser-Roth Corporation, New York, New York., (Accompanied
by wife, Luella B.).

Phillip S. Straus - Partner, Neuberger and Berman, Members,
New York Stock Exchange, New York, New York.

Susan W. Weyerhaeuser - New York, New York.

Col. Robert M. Whitaker - U.S. Air Force (Ret.), Staff
Associate, Center for Defense Information.

STAT

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Approved For Release 2004/10/13 : CIA-RDP88-01315R000100640001-6

April 26, 1976

76-7177/3
Center For Defense
Information
DDI-3263-76

The Honorable George Bush
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

mb for file

Dear George:

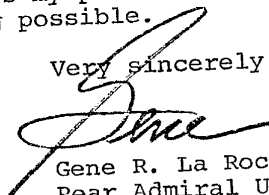
You were kind to arrange for a briefing and exchange of views by your Deputy Director, Mr. Edward Proctor on April 23rd for the Board of the Center for Defense Information.

Deputy Proctor gave a full, useful and informative presentation which will be very helpful to me and the Board members in reaching decisions on these important military matters.

The members of the Board asked me to express their appreciation to you and to Deputy Director Proctor for your cooperation and willingness to participate in this dialog.

I wish to express my personal gratitude to you for making the meeting possible.

Very sincerely,



Gene R. La Rocque
Rear Admiral USN (Ret.)
Director

GRL:esl

It was a good session.

122 MARYLAND AVENUE, N.E., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

TELEPHONE: 202/543-0400

Center For Defense Information

April 26, 1976

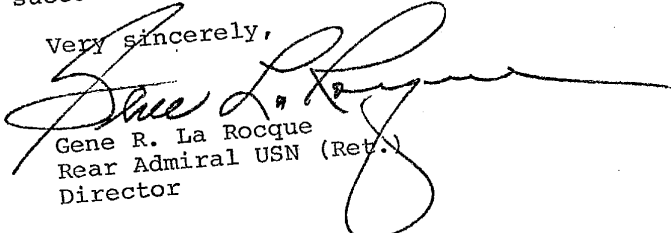
The Honorable Edward W. Proctor
Deputy Director for Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Proctor:

You were most gracious to provide the excellent briefing to the Board of the Center for Defense Information. The Board members asked me to express their appreciation to you and to tell you they have a much better idea now of what the CIA does. They were all very impressed.

I would like to add my personal thanks to you and my best wishes for success.

Very sincerely,


Gene R. La Rocque
Rear Admiral USN (Ret.)
Director

GRL:esl

*The Board is sending a
small atlas to you.*

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM
 Approved For Release 2004/10/13 : CIA-RDP88-01315R000100640001-6
 CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	Mr. Thuermer		
2	Assistant to the Director		
3			
4			

Remarks:
 Angus--

PT
cm - you have file?

Attached for your information is a copy of the "thank you" letter I received from Admiral La Rocque regarding my session with his organization.

The subject of the session was CIA's perception of its role in national security policy. My prepared remarks on the subject lasted about 30 minutes, and we then had about an hour for questions.

I felt the session went very smoothly. They listened and asked very proper questions. We disagreed on a few subjects, like whether the US Government should carry out covert action programs.

[redacted] was present and is preparing a memorandum for the record on what went on.

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
Deputy Director for Intelligence	27 April
UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL
	SECRET

FORM NO. 1-67 **237** Use previous editions GPO : 1968 O - 297-542 (40)

25X1

Center For Defense Information

Org Center for Defense
Information
LA Rocque, Gene R.
(orig under Orgi)

April 12, 1976

The Honorable George Bush
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

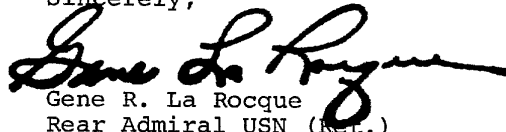
25X1 ATTENTION:
Office of the Assistant to the Director

25X1 Dear

Enclosed is a list of individuals who will be present at the CIA briefing for the Board of Advisors, Center for Defense Information at 11:00 a.m., 23 April 1976. As requested by the Director, dates and places of birth have been included.

Your assistance in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,


Gene R. La Rocque
Rear Admiral USN (Ret.)
Director

GRL:esl

Enclosures: A/S

122 MARYLAND AVENUE, N.E., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

TELEPHONE: 202/543-0400

Doris Z. Bato -- December 30, 1929, Detroit, MI
Andrew G. Bato -- November 8, 1918, Budapest, Hungary

Arthur D. Berliss, Jr. -- April 20, 1914, Chicago, IL

James R. Compton -- December 12, 1921, Montclair, NJ

Randolph P. Compton -- March 18, 1892, Macon, MO

Col. James Donovan -- May 23, 1917, Chicago, IL
(Kay Virginia Donovan -- December 3, 1925, Richmond, VA

Leslie Dunbar -- January 27, 1921, Lewisburg, WV

Charles H. Dyson -- August 2, 1909, New York City

Brigadier General Bertram K. Gorwitz -- May 10, 1920, Duluth, MN

G. Sterling Grumman -- July 18, 1920, Bridgeport, CT

Harry Huger -- September 16, 1937, Deshler, NB

David T. Johnson -- March 25, 1943, Philadelphia, PA

Stefan H. Leader -- July 9, 1943, New York City

Stewart R. Mott -- December 4, 1937, Flint, MI
Cherry Barnes -- June 15, 1944, Pueblo, CO
Anne Zill -- November 25, 1941, Philadelphia, PA

Nicholas Nyary -- August 5, 1930, Budapest, Hungary

Lawrence S. Phillips -- March 20, 1927, New York City
~~Ann S. Phillips -- March 4, 1931, New York City~~

Rear Admiral Gene R. La Rocque -- June 29, 1918, Kankakee, IL

Rudolph S. Rasin -- July 5, 1930, Newark, NJ

Dr. Earl C. Ravenal -- March 29, 1931, New York City
Carol M. Ravenal -- November 26, 1926, New York City

John M. Rockwood -- January 24, 1915, Elmhurst, IL
Patricia Dean Rockwood -- May 24, 1919, Oakpark, IL

Robert P. Schauss -- July 8, 1916, Cleveland, OH

~~Dr. Herbert Seoville, Jr. -- March 16, 1915, New York City~~

~~Joseph Segel -- January 9, 1931, Philadelphia, PA~~
~~Doris Segel -- February 8, 1926, Philadelphia, PA~~

Alfred P. Slaner -- April 10, 1918, New York City
Luella B. Slaner (~~date and place of birth unable to~~
~~obtain at this time~~) August 15, 1919, Ft. Lee, N. J.
Phillip S. Straus -- March 17, 1915, New York City
Susan W. Weyerhaeuser -- December 18, 1946, NJ City
Col. Robert M. Whitaker -- October 21, 1923, Boise, ID
~~Abraham Wilson -- November 3, 1903, New York City~~

1 APR 1976

Admiral Gene R. La Rocque
Center for Defense Information
122 Maryland Ave. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Gene:

Thank you for your letter of March 22. We will be glad to have a presentation for your group on April 23 on how the Agency perceives its role in the national security process. I am afraid, however, that classification problems will bar any useful discussion of the relationship between defense spending and threat perception. We will, of course, leave time for a question and answer session.

We would appreciate receiving, at least ten days in advance, a list of your members who will be attending the session. We will need their dates and places of birth so that we can make a nominal security check. As you probably know, Agency rules prohibit the inclusion of any aliens in such briefings.

I also want to be sure that you agree to our ground rules for a briefing of this nature: no cameras, no tape recorders, no note-taking and no publicity before or after the briefing. It is strictly on background for you and your Board of Advisors, and is not for further dissemination.

Again, I'm sorry that I will not be able to be with you on the 23rd. If you have questions about the scheduling or

content of the program, please feel free to call on Angus
MacLean Thuermer. Assistant to the Director [redacted]
[redacted] They can be reached on
[redacted] and will be happy to work with you to make your
session worthwhile.

25X1

Sincerely,

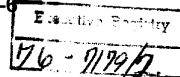
Angus B.

George Bush
Director

STAT



EW



Center For Defense Information

March 22, 1976

The Honorable George Bush
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear George:

It was kind of you to respond favorably to my recent letter which requested a briefing by the Central Intelligence Agency for the Board of Advisors of the Center for Defense Information. I am very sorry to learn that your personal schedule may not permit you to be present on the 23rd of April.

To be most beneficial, the major thrust of the CIA briefing should deal with the relationship between the Department of Defense budget formulation and the perceptions of the military threat as seen by the U. S. Intelligence Community. Additionally, and insofar as can be stated, a discussion on how the Agency perceives its role in the national security process. An open and unstructured question and answer period should bring out any other concerns the Board members may hold.

Subject to your acceptance, our schedule would have us arriving at the CIA, 11:00 a.m. on April 23 and departing at approximately 12:30 p.m.

If desirable, my Deputy, General Gorwitz, could work out any other scheduling details required with the point of contact you designate.

Very sincerely yours,

Gene
Gene R. La Rocque
Rear Admiral USN (Ret.)
Director

GRL:esl

122 MARYLAND AVENUE, N.E., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

TELEPHONE: 202/543-0400

PT-FYI
DDI-1012-76

24- 6
5906 - Del Security
PT 501 conf rmc scheduled
3/24 for 4/23

Angus:

Mr. Proctor believes you can accept, but:

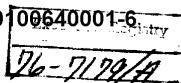
- There should be no discussion of their first question; classification problems will bar any useful discussion of the relationship between defense spending and threat perception;
- We can handle the Agency's role question with no problem;
- They should understand that there will be no publicity, off the record, etc.

These points should be prominent in your acceptance letter.



Date 25 March 1976

FORM 101 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS
5-75



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

DIRECTOR

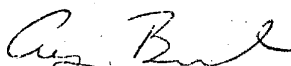
March 15, 1976

Dear Gene,

Thank you for your recent letter. It is my present intention to be out of Washington on Friday, April 23rd, and thus I will not be able to have a meeting with your group. I am confident we can arrange some kind of briefing at the Agency along the lines of the one you received from the Assistant Secretary of Defense at DoD last year.

I'm sorry I won't be able to be with you, but if you would like someone else to do the briefing, please let me know what subjects would be of particular interest and I'll try to work it out.

Yours very truly,


George Bush

Admiral Gene R. La Rocque
Center for Defense Information
122 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

[illegible]

Center For Defense Information

March 2, 1976

The Honorable George Bush
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear George:

The board of advisors of the Center for Defense Information will conduct its annual meeting this year in Washington, D. C. on April 22nd and 23rd. My advisors have expressed a strong desire to receive a briefing about CIA. They are interested in how the agency perceives its role in our open society.

The Center for Defense Information and its board of advisors are proponents of a strong but not excessive national defense posture. Members of the advisory board are knowledgeable about intelligence policies and are concerned about the continuing capability of the agency in carrying out its functions.

As successful and sensible businessmen, they also are very concerned with the state of our domestic economy, and the continued rise in costs of weapons, people, and intelligence operations. A visit to the CIA by the board of advisors and the senior staff associates of the Center will contribute to a better understanding of the agency's position.

The Center for Defense Information prepares analyses of Defense Department policies, spending and weapons systems. These analyses are made from a national point of view rather than from the perspective of any one individual service. The

25X1

Angus Handley
Response via
GEN WALTERS

-2-

results of the Center's analyses at times have been at variance with some of the Pentagon's recommendations. Perhaps you have some knowledge of our past positions on defense issues from our publication the Defense Monitor. Several issues are enclosed.

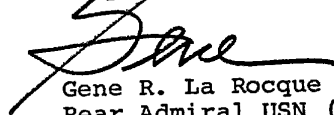
Last year my board and I received an excellent briefing from Assistant Secretary of Defense as Secretary Schlesinger's schedule made it impossible for him to meet with us. This year the Pentagon is arranging another briefing for us and if his schedule permits, we expect to have a few minutes with Secretary Rumsfeld.

A short talk by you will be very helpful to the group and in the long run a benefit to the nation. If possible, we would like to arrive at your headquarters at 1100 on 23 April following our 0900 meeting in the Pentagon. I know that the important work you do and your tight schedule keep you busy. The board would greatly appreciate it, however, if you could find time to talk to them and take a few questions. These board members are highly respected citizens with about equal representation from both of our major political parties.

My deputy, Brigadier General Bertram Gorwitz, or I will be pleased to discuss any details with Lieutenant General Walters or anyone you designate if it is convenient for the agency to provide a briefing.

Enclosed is a copy of the names of the board of advisors and the senior staff associates of the Center for Defense Information.

Very sincerely yours,



Gene R. La Rocque
Rear Admiral USN (Ret.)
Director

GRL:esl

Enclosures

STAT

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BOARD OF ADVISORS

Morris B. Abram, Jr. - Pembroke College, Oxford, England; founder and former President of Student Vote and Harvard Independent.

Doris Bato - Cos Cob, Connecticut.

Arthur D. Berliss, Jr. - Captain, USNR (Ret.); former Vice President, Allen-Hollander Company. New York, New York

James R. Compton - President, J.R. Compton Development Company; President's Council, Experiment in International Living. Los Gatos, California.

Colonel James Donovan, USMC (Ret.) - Author; former publisher, Journal of the Armed Forces. Research Scientist, Head of Public Relations, Engineering Experiment Station, Georgia Institute of Technology.

Charles H. Dyson - Chairman of the Board, Dyson-Kissner Corporation. New York, New York.

Marriner S. Eccles - Former Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. Hon. Chairman, Utah International, San Francisco, California.

G. Sterling Grumman - G.S. Grumman and Associates, Inc., Members, New York Stock Exchange. Boston, Massachusetts.

Harry Huge - Partner, Arnold and Porter; Chairman, Board of Trustees, United Mine Workers of America, Welfare & Retirement Fund. Washington, D.C.

Stewart R. Mott - Philanthropist. New York, New York

Paul Newman - Motion Pictures. Westport, Connecticut.

Lawrence S. Phillips - President, Phillips-Van Heusen Corporation. New York, New York.

Rudolph S. Rasin - President, The Rasin Corporation, Chicago, Illinois.

Dr. Earl C. Ravenal - Former Director, Asian Division (Systems Analysis), Office of Secretary of Defense. Professor of American Foreign Policy, Johns Hopkins School of Advance International Studies, Washington, D.C.

122 MARYLAND AVENUE, N.E., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

TELEPHONE: 202/543-0400

John Rockwood - Publisher, Chicago, Illinois.

Albert M. Rosenhaus - Vice President, J.B. Williams Company.
Centry Creations Inc., Venice, California.

Robert P. Schauss - Metallurgical Engineer; International
Consultant for Industrial Development. River Forest, Illinois.

Dr. Herbert Scoville, Jr. - Author; former Deputy Director,
Central Intelligence Agency. Secretary of the Arms Control
Association, Washington, D.C.

Alfred P. Slaner - Chairman of the Executive Committee,
Kayser-Roth Corporation. New York, New York.

Philip A. Straus - Partner, Neuberger and Berman, Members,
New York Stock Exchange. New York, New York.

Paul Warnke - Former Assistant Secretary of Defense,
International Security Affairs. Attorney, Partner; Clifford,
Warnke, Glass, McIlwain & Finney, Washington, D.C.

Susan Weyerhaeuser - New York, New York

Harold Willens - Chairman of the Board, Factory Equipment
Corporation. Chairman, Businessmen's Educational Fund
Los Angeles, California.

Abraham Wilson - Attorney, Partner, Kadel, Wilson and Potts,
New York, New York.

SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS

Gene R. La Rocque
Rear Admiral U.S. Navy (Retired)
Director

Bertram Kall Gorwitz
Brigadier General U.S. Army (Retired)
Associate Director

David Johnson
Director of Research

Dr. Stefan H. Leader
Staff Associate

Dr. Dennis F. Verhoff
Staff Associate

Dr. Robert Whitaker
Colonel U.S. Air Force (Retired)
Staff Associate

122 MARYLAND AVENUE, N.E., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

TELEPHONE: 202/543-0400

ORGI Centre for
Defense Information
L FUND For Peace

7 JAN 1975

Mr. Doron Bar-Levav
Center for Defense Information
122 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. Bar-Levav:

The following is in response to your letter of 8 November 1974 regarding numbers of personnel in this Agency involved in arms control matters.

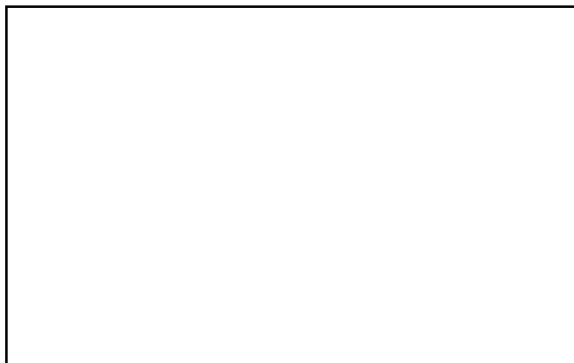
The CIA Act of 1949 exempts the Agency from releasing to the public information pertaining to its personnel and their assignments. In the interests of the security of the foreign intelligence activities of the United States, CIA has consistently adhered to this exemption.

Therefore, I regret we cannot comply with your request.

Sincerely,

Angus MacLean Thuermer
Assistant to the Director

STAT



Sent ISAS 11/11

Center For Defense Information

↓ Funded by Fund for Peace
which ran the Covert

November 8, 1974

Action and CIA Seminar.

AT

Mr. Angus Thuermer
Asst. to the Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Sir:

We are conducting research regarding the detailed breakdown of personnel outside of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency who are involved in arms control issues. We are interested in determining, if possible:

- the number of people in your agency ~~that~~ are assigned to arms control matters.
- the extent, timewise, to which the individuals in your agency devote to these issues: either more or less than half time.
- the particular arms control talks that these individuals are concerned with, be it SALT, MBFR, NPT, CCD, UNGA, or Red Cross.

We believe it important to determine who makes up the arms control community and would appreciate any help you can give us on this matter. Please address all replies to me in care of the Center. Our new address is:

Center For Defense Information
122 Maryland Avenue N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Thank you very much,

Doron Bar-Levav
Doron Bar-Levav

Dr. Robert, Richard
C. A. Anderson, Sally
Org Center for
Defense Information

Gene La Rocque called Nader of the military

By Richard Durt

Special to The Christian Science Monitor

Washington

To most people, national security issues seem mystifyingly complex. But since April a research group in Washington, the Center for Defense Information, has attempted to monitor currents in the Defense Department and challenge underlying assumptions of present-day military thinking.

The center's director, Rear Adm. Gene La Rocque (ret.), has been dubbed the Ralph Nader of the military. The center has drawn both criticism and praise from other defense specialists here. Opinion is divided on its ultimate effectiveness.

While the objectives of the center are in keeping with the Nader tradition, many of the similarities stop there. Unlike the somber consumer-advocate Admiral La Rocque is a flamboyant figure. An experienced, ocean-going flag officer, he is a veteran of three wars and 31 years in the Navy. In 1968, his opposition to stepped-up bombing in North Vietnam branded him a maverick in the Defense Department.

Admiral's condemnation

Today, Admiral La Rocque condemns what he considers to be the self-serving nature of the American military establishment. "Soldiers and sailors ought to be serving the nation," he says, "not the other way around. We need an independent, objective group that will look at the need for new supercarriers or strategic bombers from the national point of view rather than from the single-service point of view."

The center has a small staff of 10. It's a young group, but most members possess surprising experience. Don May, one of the center's two assistant directors, formerly covered the Pentagon as a journalist and worked on military procurement problems as a congressional staff man. Another staff member, Bill Ronsaville, worked in naval intelligence before coming to the center.

Sally Anderson, one of the two women in the group, worked as an economic analyst for both the Central Intelligence Agency and the Rand Corporation.

Consultants utilized

The center also makes use of consultants, which include defense critics Richard Barnett, Jeremy Stone, and Seymour Melman.

The center ultimately hopes to become a storehouse of defense facts and figures where students and journalists can become experts in military affairs. In the meantime, Admiral La Rocque's fledgling crew devotes most of its time to preparing a journal called the Defense Monitor — a periodic analysis of specific Pentagon programs. Replete with charts and tables, a Senate Armed Services Committee staff worker calls The Defense Monitor "useful, accurate, and objective."

The first issue of the center's journal took on the Navy's appraisal of the Soviet naval threat, with some unexpected results. Sen. William Proxmire (D) of Wisconsin was impressed with the center's finding that the overall naval balance favors the U.S. and inserted the center's report into the Congressional Record.

Senator Proxmire's action brought a spirited rejoinder from Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, the chief of naval operations, who called the report "conceptually flawed" and supplied his own statistics to challenge the center's allegations.

"The debate ended in a stand-off," said one center staff member, "but at least we made the Navy sit up and take notice."

The latest issue of the center's Defense Monitor calls the Navy's new missile-carrying submarine, the Trident, "too much, too soon." The report argues that the U.S. advantage in deliverable nuclear warheads is continuing to grow, making the \$1 billion-a-copy submarines an unnecessary addition to the American strategic arsenal.

The center doesn't intend to limit its criticism to the Navy, however. In its next report the center will take on the Air Force's controversial new bomber, the B-1.

Leslie Gelb, defense analyst and compiler of the Pentagon papers, is optimistic about the center's prospects and argues that military problems will increasingly come under public scrutiny.

"We need to demystify defense issues," he says. "There's a tendency to leave these questions to the experts because people believe military problems are too complicated to worry about. Domestic problems, in fact, are infinitely more sophisticated than national security questions. Any group like the center that puts out accurate information is worth supporting — the more the merrier."

Less sanguine view

A less sanguine view is expressed by a former Pentagon official who presently works on a congressional committee staff. "The center is fighting a more unified opposition than Ralph Nader faces," he argues. "The Department of Defense isn't the Federal Trade Commission."

The congressional source also wonders if the center can maintain an objective stance on defense matters. "They've been tarred with the defense critic brush. While their Defense Monitor has useful facts, it too often contains antihilitary rhetoric."

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